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Progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The Secretary-General is transmitting herewith the progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/203 and 68/210. The report builds on the informal report submitted in 2013 by the secretariat of the 10-year framework to the Economic and Social Council and the background document submitted as part of the dialogue with the Chair of the board of the 10-year framework during the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council in June 2014. The objectives of the present report are to share with the Member States and stakeholders the activities of the framework and the latest developments at the global, regional and national levels, and to highlight key outputs, challenges and opportunities.

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I. The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns: milestones for the first year

1. The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns is a concrete and operational outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.[1]

2. The main goals for the secretariat of the framework during the first year (prior to the nomination of the framework board in September 2013) were to set up the organizational structure of the framework, develop clear guidelines for an open and transparent process to develop the framework programmes, launch the global sustainable consumption and production patterns clearinghouse and prepare and disseminate communication tools (including the framework website, brochures and newsletter). After the establishment of the board and its first meeting, on 1 and 2 October 2013, key milestones for the next year were to accelerate the consultation process and launching of the five initial framework programmes, hold the first five regional consultations and undertake fundraising activities to secure resources for the 10-year framework trust fund.

II. Setting up the organizational structure of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (board, secretariat, Inter-Agency Coordination Group, national and stakeholder focal points)

3. By its resolution 67/203, the General Assembly established a 10-member board of the 10-year framework, consisting of two countries from each United Nations regional group, with an initial term of two years. The board was nominated and formally established[2] in September 2013 (decision A/67/564) and has since convened two meetings in New York, on 2 October 2013 and 30 March 2014. The board has adopted its terms of reference, guided development of the 10-year framework programmes, set up the criteria and process for the adoption of new programme areas,[3] approved the establishment of a sixth programme, and is guiding the operationalization of the framework trust fund. A third meeting is planned to take place in Santiago on 15 and 16 October 2014. Members of the board have convened and participated in regional meetings in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa, and are expected to attend a regional meeting for Eastern Europe late in October 2014 and a framework multi-stakeholder

[1] As stated in para. 226 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288.

[2] Chile and Mexico for Latin America and the Caribbean; Romania and the Russian Federation for Eastern Europe; Switzerland and Finland sharing a seat with Germany for the Western European and other States Group; Japan and the Republic of Korea sharing a seat, and Indonesia and Bangladesh sharing a seat for Asia; and South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania for Africa.

[3] For more information, see "Criteria and process for new 10YFP programmes areas", available at www.unep.org/10yfp/Portals/50150/downloads/Criteria&%20Process%20new%20progs_3_V1_March14.pdf.

meeting of the Western European and other States Group before the end of the year. The board was chaired by Mexico and co-chaired by Indonesia for its first year (until 16 September 2014).

A. Secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

4. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) serves as the secretariat of the 10-year framework. The secretariat has put in place the framework's mandated governance structure and organized seven regional meetings, two capacity-building workshops for national focal points and various webinars with Governments and stakeholders. It has also guided the multi-stakeholder consultation process, which is developing the 10-year framework programmes, and established transparent and inclusive procedures for their launch and subsequent further development. Two programmes have been launched, respectively, on sustainable public procurement and consumer information, and three additional ones are expected to be launched by the end of 2014.

B. Inter-Agency Coordination Group of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

5. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group was established in May 2013, with the participation of 19 United Nations bodies.[4] It is chaired by UNEP and co-chaired byte Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Coordination Group is providing inputs for the development of the 10-year framework programmes and prepared a document on "SCP in the SDG [Sustainable Development Goals] Focus Areas", which was issued in June 2014.[5] Some members of the Group are also contributing to the forthcoming publication on "SCP for Poverty Eradication, Competitiveness and Climate Change Mitigation" as part of a review committee.

C. National focal points

6. Invitation letters were sent by UNEP to all Member States through the United Nations missions to nominate national focal points for the 10-year framework. To

[4] The members of the Inter-Agency Group are: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the United Nations University (UNU), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Food Programme, the World Trade Organization, the International Trade Centre and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP as co-chairs.

[5] Available at www.unep.org/10yfp/Activities/InternationalActivities.

date, over 110 countries[6] have nominated their focal points and alternates. These nominations include representatives from ministries of the environment, foreign affairs, trade and industry, economic development, planning, rural development and agriculture.

7. The secretariat of the 10-year framework has organized four webinars for the national focal points to increase knowledge about the framework and to discuss their role. Regional meetings with focal points and other stakeholders have been organized in the Arab region (June 2013), Latin America and the Caribbean (June 2013), the Asia-Pacific region (November 2013) and Africa (October 2013 and May 2014). One meeting was organized with the focal points of the Western European and other States (Paris, July 2013). Capacity-building workshops for focal points in the West-Asia region and Africa were held, respectively, in December 2013 and May 2014, and a workshop for focal points will take place in October 2014 in South-East Asia. In West Asia, efforts are focusing on the Arab regional road map for implementing the framework, enhancing the capacities of the focal points of those countries and establishing a network between them and members of the Arab chapter of the Global Network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production.

8. Various national focal points are playing an active role. For example, in France, Jordan, Sweden and Switzerland, national focal points have organized interministerial and multi-stakeholder round tables to inform and raise awareness about the importance of sustainable consumption and production and to engage more actors in the 10-year framework. The Government of the United States of America has set up an interministerial task force to coordinate governmental action on sustainable consumption and production and participation in the framework. Many focal points have requested capacity-building on sustainable consumption and production and in some cases have indicated a need for additional support to effectively coordinate interministerial cooperation.

D. Stakeholder focal points

9. Six of the nine major groups of States set out in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development have nominated global and regional focal points, following the invitation sent by the 10-year framework secretariat to both Economic and Social Council organizing partners and UNEP facilitating committees. They have already engaged in some regional and international dialogues and activities. The secretariat has organized two webinars to facilitate the nomination process for global and regional focal points and to introduce the framework and the global sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse.

10. The first meeting of the stakeholder focal points, "Driving the shift towards SCP patterns", took place in Nairobi on 20 June 2014, at which 21 stakeholders participated, including those from the five United Nations regions. The meeting was held back to back with the first United Nations Environment Assembly and the associated Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum. It provided an overview of the 10-year framework and made possible a dialogue on the expectations and

[6] A total of 27 countries in Africa, 27 in Asia, 16 in Eastern Europe, 19 in Latin America and the Caribbean and 22 in Western European and other States.

contributions from the focal points, during which specific areas of cooperation within the framework programmes were identified. Participants expressed the need to strengthen the stakeholder engagement and bring new partners, other major groups and stakeholders to support implementation of the framework at the regional and national levels. During the Environment Assembly, an informal dialogue took place between a representative group of the focal points and four members of the framework board. This meeting indicated a strong willingness among the board members and the stakeholder focal points to provide mutual support for implementation of the framework.

E. Global sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse

11. The global sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse was launched in May 2013 to serve as the "one-stop" information hub for the 10-year framework, focusing on policymakers and the wider global sustainable consumption and production community. The dynamic and interactive hub collects, disseminates and shares experiences, best practices and knowledge about sustainable consumption and production, offering relevant initiatives, an e-library, news, events and cooperation opportunities in the form of an experts directory, working groups and discussion forums. The clearinghouse has over 2,000 members, including experts from more than 500 organizations based in 193 countries worldwide. In November 2013 a new energy efficiency community was launched, which is being co-managed by the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation. A sustainable consumption and production community has also been established in the Mediterranean region and a community in the small island developing States is under construction.

F. Trust fund of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

12. The secretariat has established the trust fund of the 10-year framework to provide financial support to the framework and specific programmes and initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Under the guidance of the board, the secretariat is developing specific guidelines for the operationalization of the trust fund. The board has agreed to launch the first call for proposals for activities focusing on sustainable public procurement. Current contributions to the trust fund amount to $650,000.

13. Financial support for the framework, amounting to $4.4 million, has been provided in the period 2012-2014 by Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the European Commission. Further official pledges totalling $3.5 million were made at the United Nations Environment Assembly in June 2014, comprised of $2.5 million from Japan and $1 million from Brazil.

14. In addition, a number of countries, namely France, Germany, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, have supported the development of programmes, thus reinforcing the programmes on sustainable public procurement, consumer information and sustainable tourism, and contributing to the development of the new sustainable food systems programme. The leads and co-leads of the two framework programmes launched so far, namely Germany, Indonesia, the Korea Environmental

Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI), ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability, UNEP and the non-governmental organization (NGO) Consumers International, are supporting the respective coordination desks of these programmes. The framework secretariat will report biennially to the Economic and Social Council, as ad interim body, on the activities and financial performance of the trust fund, starting in November 2015.

III. Developing the 10-year framework programmes: key mechanisms to delivering capacity-building and implementation at the regional and national levels

15. The 10-year framework programmes are designed to meet the objectives, goals and functions of the framework, responding to national and regional needs, priorities and circumstances. The programmes will build capacity to design and implement policies, voluntary instruments and management practices, and to carry out information, education and awareness-raising activities to promote the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns. An initial, non-exhaustive and indicative list of five programme areas was included in the 10-year framework document adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, namely consumer information, sustainable lifestyles and education, sustainable public procurement, sustainable buildings and construction, and sustainable tourism, including ecotourism. At its second meeting, in March 2014, the framework board approved a new programme area on sustainable food systems, based on a joint proposal from FAO and UNEP, developed at the request of Member States.

16. In order to facilitate an inclusive and participatory process for the development of the framework programmes, the secretariat has developed a five-step model, which was validated by the board.[7] To date over 880 institutions and organizations, representing all regions, many stakeholder groups and economic sectors, have participated in the online surveys and public consultations for the development of the programmes.

A. Sustainable public procurement programme

17. The sustainable public procurement programme, led by UNEP and co-led by KEITI and ICLEI, was formally launched on 1 April 2014, in the margins of the tenth session of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, held in New York. The programme builds on the previous work of the Marrakech Process Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement (2005-2011) and the Sustainable Public Procurement Initiative (2012-2013). It brings together representatives from Governments, local authorities, the business sector and civil society, and 69 participating institutions and experts, including departments and agencies of 21 Governments from all regions, as well as UNOPS, UNEP, ICLEI, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

[7] Guidance document for the development of the 10YFP programmes: criteria, structure and steps to develop and operationalize them, available at www.unep.org/10yfp/Portals/50150/downloads/Criteria&%20Process%20new%20progs_3_V1_March14.pdf.

18. The objectives of the programme are(a) to build the case for sustainable public procurement by increasing knowledge about such procurement and its effectiveness as a tool to promote sustainable consumption and production and to support greener economies and sustainable development, and (b) to promote the implementation of sustainable public procurement on the ground through increased collaboration and better access to capacity-building tools and the provision of support to sustainable public procurement experts.[8]

19. The sustainable public procurement programme work plan is organized around four main work areas:

(a) **Implementing sustainable public procurement on the ground**. The first work area focuses on facilitating implementation and building synergies with other existing sustainable public procurement projects, including the ICLEI Procura+ project, the IISD sustainable public procurement programme and the UNEP sustainable public procurement and eco-labelling project. Cooperation is coordinated through informational webinars, online working platforms, the sustainable consumption and production global clearinghouse and virtual meetings;

(b) **Assessing implementation and impacts**. This work area consists of taking a step back from implementation to see how organizations keep track of sustainable public procurement and tangibly measure its outcomes. There are three subgroups: monitoring sustainable public procurement implementation; measuring impacts and communicating benefits created by sustainable public procurement; and promoting best practices;

(c) **Addressing barriers to sustainable public procurement implementation and promoting innovative solutions**. This area aims to develop innovative solutions that address current barriers to sustainable public procurement implementation through the work of three subgroups that focus on integrating product service systems into sustainable public procurement; overcoming legal barriers; and including small- and medium-sized enterprises. A white paper on product-service systems, prepared with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment of the Netherlands, is currently under development;

(d) **Collaborating with the private sector**. This area calls for analysing the integral part that the private sector plays in public procurement and seeking ways to improve that collaboration through two subgroups: greening supply chains (team leader: Swedish Environmental Management Council); and sustainable public procurement through eco-labels and standards (team leader: ISEAL Alliance).

B. Consumer information programme

20. After a global and multi-stakeholder consultation, which engaged about 150 initiatives, organizations and institutions from more than 20 countries, the 10-year framework consumer information programme was launched during the high-level political forum, held in New York on 1 July 2014. The programme is co-led by Germany, through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety; Indonesia, through the Ministry of Environment; and

[8] More information is available at www.unep.org/10yfp/Programmes/ProgrammeConsultationandCurrentStatus/Sustainablepublicprocurement/tabid/106267/Default.aspx.

Consumers International. The programme serves as a global platform to support the provision of quality information on sustainable goods and services, and the identification and implementation of the most effective strategies to engage consumers in sustainable consumption. It raises the profile of relevant policies, strategies, projects as well as initiatives and partnerships, building synergies and cooperation between different stakeholders to leverage collective effort and resources so as to achieve shared sustainable consumption and production goals.

21. The main objectives of the programme are: (a) improve availability, accessibility and quality of consumer information to create a basis for the provision of credible information; (b) drive change in business and Government to ensure that the framework conditions are provided to support best practices in relation to consumer information; and (c) enhance communication to drive behavioural change and ensure the transition from being informed to taking action.

22. Each objective has three specific work areas for which the consumer information programme is engaging a wide range of stakeholders and partners, including consumer associations, businesses, retailers and Governments, in a consultative process for joint action. These work areas will be:

(a) Improve availability, accessibility and credibility of consumer information through principles and guidelines; address data gaps and quality; and improve methodologies of key sustainability impact indicators;

(b) Support retailers and brand owners to promote sustainability; encourage the uptake of new business models and the design of products that make sustainability the easy choice; and encourage the uptake of policies which enable more sustainable practices;

(c) Stimulate inter-operability of consumer information tools; identify and scale up effective practices of consumer information; and promote understanding of the impact of sustainability information on consumer behaviour.

C. Sustainable tourism (including ecotourism) programme

23. In 2013 an initial stocktaking exercise on sustainable tourism involved a survey (available in English, French and Spanish) to which 355 initiatives and organizations have responded[9] (40 per cent from governmental institutions, 27 per cent from businesses and 21 per cent from non-profit and non-governmental organizations), as well as regional and subregional expert workshops in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. As a result, a draft concept note for the sustainable tourism programme has been developed, following close cooperation between UNEP and the United Nations World Tourism Organization. An online public consultation on the draft sustainable tourism concept note of the 10-year framework was held in May and June 2014. Consultations were held with and feedback was received from 80 stakeholders, with representation from NGOs (30 per cent), business (15 per cent), Governments (39 per cent), intergovernmental organizations (6 per cent), national cleaner production centres (3 per cent), United Nations agencies (4 per cent) and academia (3 per cent). Likewise, 37 expressions of interest were received from tourism stakeholders

[9] The results of the sustainable tourism survey are available at www.unep.org/10yfp/tourism.

willing to play an active role in the coordination and implementation of the programme. Following the consultation, the selection of the lead actors and the multi-stakeholder advisory committee is taking place, facilitated by the framework secretariat. The sustainable tourism programme is expected to be launched by the fourth quarter of 2014.

24. The potential focus areas of the sustainable tourism programme are: (a) integrating sustainable consumption and production patterns in tourism policies and frameworks; (b) promoting collaboration among tourism stakeholders for the improvement of the tourism sector's sustainable consumption and production performance; (c) fostering the application of guidelines, instruments and technical solutions to mitigate tourism impacts and to mainstream sustainable consumption and production patterns among tourism stakeholders; and (d) enhancing sustainable tourism investment and financing.

D. Sustainable lifestyles and education programme

25. The sustainable lifestyles and education programme will promote the development of efficient infrastructures, individual actions and choices that minimize the use of natural resources, emissions, waste and pollution, while supporting equitable socioeconomic development and a better quality of life for all. An informal expert meeting, co-hosted by UNEP and UNESCO, was held on the programme in Paris on 12 December 2013. An Advisory Group has been set up, with the participation of Japan, Sweden, UNESCO, UNU, UNEP, the Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living (PERL), Akatu, Consumers International and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), which will be providing support, guidance and feedback for the shaping of the programme.

26. A global and multi-stakeholder online public consultation took place in June and July 2014. It garnered 171 responses from all regions, most from Governments, academia/researchers and NGOs. The three main findings reveal (a) the need for a change in the perception of what sustainable lifestyles are, moving away from a consumption perspective and giving more consideration to well-being and social interactions, integrating them into policies, (b) education has been identified as a key to shifting towards sustainable lifestyles and an important factor to help reduce poverty, and (c) consideration of and action on sustainable lifestyles need to be included in all stages of citizens' lives and across all sectors of society.

27. A multi-stakeholder expert meeting, held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 9 and 10 July 2014, gathered more than 20 experts to shape the outline of the sustainable lifestyles and education programme. The proposed work areas are (a) identifying sustainable lifestyles, (b) activating sustainable lifestyles, (c) educating for sustainable lifestyles and (d) measuring sustainable lifestyles.

28. The formal proposal for the sustainable lifestyles and education programme will be submitted to the 10-year framework secretariat and board in October 2014 for validation and approval. It is foreseen to launch it at the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in November 2014.

E. Sustainable buildings and construction programme

29. A first consultation on the sustainable buildings and construction programme took place at the UNEP Sustainable Buildings and Construction Initiative Symposium, held in Paris on 25 and 26 November 2013. The consultation highlighted the importance of sustainable social housing and energy efficiency as potential activities of the programme, in addition to policy development, and resource efficiency in construction throughout the supply chain. A stocktaking analysis was undertaken during the second quarter of 2014 with the support of UNEP-Initiative partners and subject matter experts.

30. The sustainable buildings and construction programme aims to reach a point where all stakeholders involved in the planning, commissioning, design, construction and deconstruction, management and operation of buildings have a common understanding of sustainable buildings and the knowledge, resources and incentives required to create, maintain and use them, and where structures that are healthy to live and work in, that sustainably utilize energy, water, land and other key resources, respecting environmental limits, and ultimately have a minimally adverse impact on the natural world, are built or refurbished.

31. A draft concept note, currently under development with support from the NGO BioRegional, is based on interviews with stakeholders and experts in the buildings and construction community. A public online consultation on the note will take place in September. The programme is expected to be launched by the end of 2014.

F. Sustainable food systems programme

32. The framework sustainable food systems programme will build on the existing work on the FAO-UNEP sustainable food systems programme developed by the Agri-food Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The Task Force includes national Governments, the European Commission, United Nations agencies and programmes, civil society and private sector representatives. The proposed goal is to improve resource use efficiency and reduce the pollution intensity of food systems, from production to consumption, while addressing issues of food and nutrition security. An online consultation was conducted in July 2014 and gathered 212 responses (29 per cent from researchers, 25 per cent from NGOs, 18 per cent from governmental institutions, 8 per cent from the private sector, 6 per cent from intergovernmental organizations, 14 per cent from other institutions or individuals). Initial results indicate that food losses and waste, sustainable food consumption, sustainable supply chains and data availability for sustainable production could play a prominent role in the programme. The suggested focus areas for the programme were further defined at an expert session of the Agri-food Task Force held at FAO headquarters in Rome on 11 and 12 September 2014. The outcome of that meeting will be a first draft of the concept for the sustainable food systems programme of the 10-year framework, which is expected to be launched in the first or second quarter of 2015, following finalization of the governance of the programme during the fourth quarter of 2014.

IV. Progress at the regional level: regional road maps for implementation of the 10-year framework

33. Regional consultations and activities have identified priorities, needs and emerging issues, and the best ways to address them in the course of seven regional meetings and capacity-building workshops. These events were attended by 70 national focal points and brought together policymakers, experts, civil society organizations and the business sector. Regional road maps for framework implementation have been developed in the Arab region (June 2013),[10] and in the Asia-Pacific region[11] (official launching in April 2014). In March 2014 the 19th Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted a decision reaffirming commitment to framework implementation and outlining key actions. The African road map for framework implementation is currently being developed.

34. A first regional meeting on the 10-year framework was organized in close cooperation with the 8th African Round Table on Sustainable Consumption and Production, held in Namibia in May 2014. This meeting brought together the African national focal points, the Round Table experts and the African Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Network, so as to strengthen capacities and cooperation for sustainable consumption and production implementation at the national and regional levels. Interregional cooperation has been fostered as well. In the case of small island developing States, in paragraph 69 of the SAMOA (Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action) Pathway outcome document, Member States called for support for the efforts of small island developing States to develop and implement programmes under the 10-year framework to advance sustainable consumption. The framework secretariat, in close consultation with small island developing States, is developing a sustainable consumption and production initiative for such States within the 10-year framework, which will provide support for specific activities, projects and capacity-building in order to shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns and respond to the priorities of small island developing States.

35. The European Union-funded SWITCH projects in the Asia-Pacific, Africa and Mediterranean regions provide additional opportunities to promote sustainable consumption and production, and synergies are being developed with the 10-year framework programmes through these regional activities. For example, following the adoption of the framework, the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Support Component organized a policy workshop, "The post-Rio+20 future we want in Asia and the Pacific region: the SCP engine", in May 2014. The workshop resulted in policy recommendations for sustainable consumption and production, including the 10-year framework, and a proposal to amend the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Support Component to reflect more strongly the support of this programme to framework implementation in the Asia-Pacific region. This coordination with regional projects allows for subregional projects, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ASEAN+3)

[10] Information is available at www.unep.org/10yfp/Portals/50150/downloads/Roadmap_10YFP_Arab.pdf.

[11] Information is available at www.unep.org/10yfp/Portals/50150/Asia_Pacific_10YFP_Roadmap_2014_2015_Final_Launched.pdf.

green public procurement and eco-labelling project, to indirectly support framework implementation.

36. Two outreach sessions were organized to strengthen science-based knowledge on sustainable consumption and production in cooperation with the International Resource Panel. The first was held in the Latin America and the Caribbean region (Lima, June 2013) and the second in the Asia-Pacific region (Bangkok, November 2013).

V. Progress at the national level

37. Since the adoption of the 10-year framework, sustainable consumption and production is more widely and clearly understood as a universal and integrated approach to sustainable development, simultaneously addressing environmental, economic and social objectives.

38. At the national level, countries have developed/implemented national action plans following adoption of the 10-year framework. In Indonesia, since the launch of its national 10-year framework programme on sustainable consumption and production (formally adopted by BAPPENAS, the former Ministry of National Development Planning), on 5 June 2013, the uptake of sustainable consumption and production in the national development policy has been advanced. This is reflected in Presidential Decree No. 43 of 2014 as a focus in the first year of the midterm national development plan of 2015-2019. Mexico too has developed a special programme on sustainable consumption and production which is now part of the national development plan for 2012-2018. In addition, Chile launched an interministerial committee on sustainable consumption and production on 10 September 2014, with the objective of developing a national programme on the matter by the end of 2015. Moreover, new funds provided by the United Nations Development Account will provide support for the implementation of sustainable consumption and production in five countries, namely Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Zambia, to advance the implementation of their national sustainable consumption and production plans, and Honduras and Pakistan, to develop their own national plans.

VI. The 10-year framework in the international agenda

A. Sustainable consumption and production at the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

39. During the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014, a plenary meeting at the ministerial level focused on "sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production". The ministers highlighted the potential of the 10-year framework as an important implementation mechanism for the goals and as an operational tool for the development of economies on a sustainable basis. Many Member States recognized

the positive value of sustainable consumption and production, including for poverty eradication.

40. Some key points that were raised by the ministers during the plenary meeting were as follows. There is a need for more focus on sustainable consumption and production, and how to shift to these patterns. This requires more work, engaging all stakeholders, including consumers and business throughout the supply chains, of large and small companies alike. There is also a need for leadership to achieve the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, not only from Governments but also from actors in civil society and business. Developed countries should take the lead in the shift to sustainable consumption and production in the light of their high levels of material consumption. Such a shift also offers developing countries an opportunity to leapfrog to cleaner, more efficient and competitive models of development. Sustainable consumption and production is thus a universally applicable approach for sustainable development. The measures required to achieve the shift require political will for their effective implementation.

41. Outcomes of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly were reflected in the ministerial outcome document of the Assembly, in which the ministers called upon the international community and reaffirmed their commitment to accelerate and support efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through sustainable lifestyles and resource efficiency, and to accelerate actions, with the support of UNEP, to implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns as a tool for action on sustainable consumption and production, including its section on means of implementation.

42. During the Environment Assembly, on 23 June 2014, the 10-year framework secretariat also organized a side event on "transforming consumption and production systems through the sustainable development goals". At this event, Governments and stakeholders discussed the relevance of sustainable consumption and production to the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, and the framework as a means of implementation of the goals.

B. Sustainable consumption and production at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development

43. At the 2014 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and at the second meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened in New York from 30 June to 11 July 2014, sustainable consumption and production and the 10-year framework were included in the agenda and highlighted in dedicated dialogues held during the forum.

44. Responding to General Assembly resolution 67/290, in which the Assembly decided that the forum may provide recommendations to the board of the 10-year framework and its secretariat, a dialogue with the Chairs of the 10-year framework board was organized on 31 May 2014 and an interim progress report was prepared for the forum. During the dialogue session, Balthasar Kambuaya, Minister of Environment of Indonesia, co-Chair of the board, reported on progress in the establishment of the framework and in regional road maps for its implementation.

Sylvia del Carmen Trevino (Mexico), Chair of the board, presented some of the challenges faced, such as ensuring that sustainable consumption and production is integrated in the decision-making processes, enhancing interministerial cooperation, coordinating broader stakeholder action at the national level and securing predictable and adequate finance. They both shared their experience in developing their countries' national sustainable consumption and production programmes.

45. It was noted that the 10-year framework has gained momentum, but implementation of the framework and delivery on its mandate need to proceed quickly. Political leadership is needed as well as additional resources on the scale required for implementation at the regional and national levels. Stakeholders' roles were further highlighted, especially that of national focal points of the framework, who should be empowered to promote interministerial cooperation at the domestic and regional levels.

46. Another dialogue, entitled "How could sustainable consumption and production contribute to the sustainable development goals?", was also organized. It gathered various partners from Governments, the private sector and civil society organizations, who emphasized that sustainable consumption and production is applicable to all Member States, requiring leadership from developed countries and offering opportunities for developing countries to leapfrog to more sustainable development pathways. The need for effective action to promote sustainable consumption patterns was also noted, the main challenge being how to scale up and mainstream sustainable consumption and production in core national policies and planning. All stakeholders have an important role to play in achieving sustainable consumption and production and long-term sustainability after 2015, and the private sector should be engaged, from small- and medium-sized enterprises to multinational companies. It was also highlighted that a solid monitoring and accountability mechanism, based on transparency in information and the use of indicators, would support an effective shift towards sustainable consumption and production.

47. In paragraph 19 of the ministerial declaration of the 2014 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum convened under the auspices of the Council, the Ministers welcome the operationalization of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and look forward to the launch of all of its programmes.

48. As mentioned above, during the high-level political forum, the 10-year framework programme on consumer information was launched and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group organized a side event on "One UN for sustainable consumption and production: joint action to implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns". At this event the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNEP, FAO, UNESCO and ESCAP presented the role of the United Nations in building cooperation, as well as joint capacity-building activities on sustainable consumption and production, and on implementing the 10-year framework.

C. Sustainable consumption and production and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

49. The objective of shifting to sustainable consumption and production patterns is gaining political support and is of increasing relevance in intergovernmental discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. The need for this shift has been highlighted by Governments and stakeholders, recalling that sustainable consumption and production is one of the three overarching objectives and an essential requirement for sustainable development. The High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda reaffirmed that the adoption of sustainable consumption and production in a world of limited resources is an essential requirement for sustainable development. In its report of May 2013 it also mentioned that "the MDGs [Millennium Development Goals] fell short by not integrating the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration, and by not addressing the need to promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production".

50. In this context, the 10-year framework provided inputs, through outreach sessions and papers, highlighting the potential contribution that a shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns could make to the future sustainable development goals. The framework board and secretariat organized a side event during the seventh session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in January 2014 and during the eleventh session of the Working Group. A UNEP discussion paper on sustainable consumption and production targets and indicators and the sustainable development goals was subsequently issued in an advance copy in May and in a final version in June 2014.

51. Moreover, the framework board, with the support of the secretariat, prepared a brief document on "Potential contribution of the 10YFP programmes to the SDGs", and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, with support provided by the secretariat, prepared a document on "SCP in the SDGs". Both documents were issued in June 2014.[12]

52. On 19 July 2014, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals adopted by acclamation an outcome document of proposed sustainable development goals. Target 12.1 calls for the implementation of the 10-year framework, with all countries taking action and with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries. This target is further supported by other targets within the proposed goal 12 ("Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns") and other closely related targets. The proposal of the Open Working Group has been recognized by the General Assembly as the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals in the post-2015 development agenda pursuant to its resolution 68/309.

53. The framework secretariat provided further information and documentation on the links between sustainable consumption and production and the sustainable development goals, and the potential contribution of the 10-year framework to the achievement of those goals, as required by Member States, the framework board, the Inter-Agency Consultative Group and other stakeholders.

[12] Both documents are available at www.unep.org/10yfp.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

54. The adoption of the 10-year framework at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development has created important momentum for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, placing this topic on the agenda of global and regional ministerial meetings. This has also been evident in the sessions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, where many Member States have stressed the universality of sustainable consumption and production and the need to embed this objective in those future goals, and has been reflected in the approved outcome document of the Open Working Group. In this context, many Member States have called for the effective and accelerated implementation of the framework.

55. The nomination of over 110 national focal points for the framework and the engagement of six major groups have also signalled widespread interest in engaging in framework implementation. Significant numbers of Governments have formally expressed their intent to play central roles in the implementation of the most advanced programmes.

56. While progress has been achieved, there is still the challenge to communicate and demonstrate the added value of sustainable consumption and production and its potential contributions to competitiveness, social development, poverty eradication and climate change mitigation. Attracting funding and enhancing the participation of the private sector and financial institutions are additional, related challenges.

57. Furthermore, in order to develop opportunities for improving the comprehensiveness of programmes under the 10-year framework in support of national sustainable development transitions, it will be necessary for actors in all programmes to identify areas of cooperation and synergies with other framework programmes, with the aim of ensuring a wider collective impact and life cycle approach. For example, the programme on sustainable tourism could make important contributions to the programme on sustainable lifestyles and education (information to tourists on sustainable choices and behaviour) as well as to the programme on sustainable buildings and construction, by providing guidelines and practical tools for constructing or refurbishing more resource-efficient hotels. There remains a need to identify other priority themes, sectors and emerging issues that should be addressed in the framework and its programmes, to support resource efficiency and the increasing number of national and regional strategies which are currently being designed and implemented by Governments. Additional programme areas that have been suggested by Governments include waste, manufacturing, small- and medium-sized enterprises, cities and urban sprawl. There is also a need to showcase, through framework programmes and other existing sustainable consumption and production initiatives, the opportunities and potential that the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns offers for achieving triple-win solutions for the benefit of people, the planet and the economy in all countries.

58. In order to build support for, accelerate the implementation and improve the comprehensiveness of programmes under the 10-year framework, the

Economic and Social Council may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) The Economic and Social Council should encourage all countries to ensure that sustainable consumption and production is integrated in their decision-making processes, including by increasing technical and financial support to Governments in their efforts to mainstream sustainable consumption and production objectives into the design and implementation of a range of economic, development and sectoral policies;

(b) The Economic and Social Council should encourage all countries to empower the 10-year framework national focal points, nominated by their respective Governments, to enable them to define and convey countries' needs related to the shift to sustainable consumption and production, enhance interministerial cooperation and coordinate broader stakeholder action at the national level, as well as serve as the channel for submitting proposals to the framework trust fund;

(c) There are untapped opportunities to induce more active participation of the private sector and financial institutions in the 10-year framework by demonstrating the economic case for, and return on investment generated by, the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns;

(d) The United Nations system should strengthen communication to facilitate the exchange of best practices and share the progress made on the implementation of 10-year framework programmes through the sustainable consumption and production global clearinghouse and the framework website;

(e) The Economic and Social Council should call upon all countries and other stakeholders in the position to do so to secure predictable and adequate financial contributions to the 10-year framework trust fund, as well as through other funding channels to the framework, so as to enable the timely implementation of its programmes at the national and regional levels, on the scale being requested by a wide range of actors;

(f) The United Nations system should ensure that the development of the 10-year framework and its programmes is consistent with and supportive of the post-2015 development agenda;

(g) The United Nations system should support the implementation of the sustainable consumption and production regional strategies and road maps and build synergies with regional intergovernmental bodies and sustainable consumption and production initiatives, including in support of small island developing States;

(h) The United Nations system should promote, within the current programme areas of the 10-year framework, mainstreaming of the following cross-cutting policy measures which have the greatest potential for increasing the overall effectiveness of the framework: a life cycle approach to ensure a holistic approach to promoting sustainable consumption and production; measures to promote sustainable supply chains which also enhance the engagement of the private sector; promoting innovation and new thinking to leapfrog to sustainable consumption and production patterns; combining capacity-building undertaken in framework programmes with policies and decision-making processes which generate financial investments, both public and private.

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Item 10 (e) of the provisional agenda*
African countries emerging from conflict

Implementation of integrated, coherent and coordinated support to South Sudan by the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report is the third submitted to the Economic and Social Council on integrated, coherent and coordinated support to the Government of South Sudan following the country's independence in July 2011. The report contains a review of the major developments in South Sudan since July 2013, with a focus on the political crisis that erupted into violence in December. The report describes the impact of the conflict on prospects for development and some of the key actions taken by the international community, including the United Nations system, to help the country to end the conflict so that development can be resumed. In the report, the parties to the conflict are called upon to end the violence and create the space for development to resume. The international community is also called upon to provide appropriate levels of funding that would give the United Nations system sufficient flexibility to respond to new challenges as they emerge and ensure that there is an appropriate balance between humanitarian and development requirements.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.
** The present report was submitted late in order to reflect the latest developments in South Sudan.

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I. Introduction

1. Since its independence on 9 July 2011, South Sudan has been on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council. In its resolution 2011/43, the Council acknowledged the enormous humanitarian, peacebuilding and development challenges facing the country and reaffirmed the need to strengthen the synergy between the economic and social development programmes of South Sudan and its peace and security agenda. The Council requested the Secretary-General and all relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as the international financial institutions and development agencies, to assist South Sudan, whenever possible, through continued effective humanitarian, peacebuilding and predictable development assistance, in conformity with national priorities, in order to lay a solid foundation for long-term development.

2. The Council has received two reports on South Sudan from the Secretary-General so far. The first report (E/2012/76) focused on the achievements of and the challenges faced by the United Nations system in supporting the Government of South Sudan. It highlighted the innovative mechanisms and tools used to ensure the transition from emergency relief to development and building local capacities in line with national priorities. The second report (E/2013/73) highlighted the efforts of the international community to adapt its support to the emerging political, humanitarian and socioeconomic challenges and priorities of the country. It described the progress and setbacks related to the implementation of development and peacebuilding frameworks by the United Nations system.

3. The present report outlines the major developments that have occurred since the previous report to the Council. A political crisis that led to a violent conflict has reversed much of the progress of the past two years. The report describes the impact of the conflict on prospects for development and some of the key actions taken by the international community, including the United Nations system, to help the country to end the conflict so that development can be resumed.

II. Context

4. South Sudan, the newest State Member of the United Nations, is facing an existential crisis. The achievements of the Government of South Sudan during the period of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement were noteworthy, all the more so when the low baseline resulting from decades of marginalization and war is taken into account. Essential executive, legislative and judicial institutions were established at the central and state levels. More than 2 million people returned to the south, including 330,000 South Sudanese refugees from neighbouring countries.

5. Since the issuance of the previous report to the Council in July 2013, a number of initiatives taken by the Government had created a sense of cautious optimism. On 4 October 2013, the Council of Ministers endorsed the development of a New Deal Compact for South Sudan, a three-year framework for mutual accountability and dialogue between the Government and international partners based on the principles of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. The Compact, which was due to be signed on 3 December 2013, would have institutionalized concrete peacebuilding and State-building commitments and provided a framework for aligning donor support while opening the possibility of direct budgetary assistance to the

Government. On 13 October 2013, a national budget for 2013-2014 was passed by the National Legislative Assembly with an increase from the 17.3 billion South Sudanese pounds allocated in 2012-2013 to 18.7 billion South Sudanese pounds. According to the International Monetary Fund, the economic outlook was improving, with oil production rising and inflation declining; growth was projected to increase to 32.1 per cent in 2013 and 49.2 per cent in 2014,[1] allowing the country to exceed the level of growth that it recorded before oil production stopped in 2012.

6. Such cautious optimism was short-lived. A crisis of governance within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) led to armed violence on 15 December 2013. A leadership struggle within SPLM rapidly deteriorated into armed conflict, causing significant loss of life and large-scale displacement, with an estimated 1.3 million people internally displaced in more than 100 locations, 100,000 of whom have sought protection at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) bases. In addition, nearly 450,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda.

7. Three years after independence, the country's efforts to progress towards sustainable development have been replaced by a crisis on a vast scale, with 3.8 million people targeted for humanitarian aid. Since 15 December 2013, the people of South Sudan have faced a complex emergency characterized by ongoing human rights violations and abuses. These include extrajudicial killings, ethnically targeted violence, sexual and gender-based violence, rape, recruitment and use of children in armed groups and attacks on schools, hospitals, patients and hospital personnel, among other violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law (S/PRST/2014/16). The targeting of civilians and shifting frontlines have resulted in frequent and unpredictable population movements. The fluid conflict dynamics also pose significant challenges to a sustained humanitarian response. For instance, the cities of Bentiu and Malakal have changed hands 12 times since the start of the crisis, with high levels of associated insecurity and loss of lives, damage to property, including humanitarian facilities, and large-scale movements of people. Aid workers have been directly affected by the political disorder and armed violence. In August, six non-governmental organization (NGO) workers from the Nuer community were targeted and killed on the basis of their ethnicity in Upper Nile State, putting at risk the humanitarian operation to support the 130,000 refugees from the Sudan in the area. At the same time, armed elements continue to move through the camps for internally displaced persons, compromising their civilian character. Aid efforts have been further hampered by insufficient and delayed funding, as well as logistics, human resource, security and access constraints. The scale of the current needs in South Sudan is enormous and is likely to be sustained well into 2015, requiring a global effort to deliver beyond the current levels.

8. The mediation efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) led to the signing of a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement on 23 January 2014. The Agreement was, however, repeatedly violated by both sides. On 9 May 2014, the Government of South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A in Opposition) signed an Agreement to

[1] International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook: Hopes, Realities, Risks* (Washington, D.C., 2013), statistical appendix. Available from www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2013/01/pdf/tables.pdf.

Resolve the Crisis, which was designed to lead to a Government of National Unity on 10 August 2014. The deadline for the formation of the transitional Government was missed. On 25 August, the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government held an extraordinary summit in Addis Ababa, which led to the signing of the Rededication of and Implementation Modalities for the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and the Protocol on Agreed Principles on Transitional Arrangements towards Resolution of the Crisis in South Sudan. SPLM/A in Opposition, however, has denied having signed the implementation matrix, declaring that the signature on the Rededication meant a re-endorsement of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement only and not of the implementation matrix, several provisions of which they oppose. Negotiations resumed on 15 September, but the discussions have yet to move beyond the differences related to the agreements of 25 August.

III. Impact of the conflict on development

9. The outbreak of conflict has created an economic, social and humanitarian catastrophe on top of a political and security crisis. Widespread looting, continued corruption, destruction of markets and physical and social infrastructure, and capital flight have reversed much of the progress since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement with the Sudan in 2005.

10. In the 2012 report of the Secretary-General to the Council (E/2012/76), it was noted that, at the time of independence, South Sudan had been one of the least developed countries in the world, owing to the legacy of a 50-year civil war: 1 in 7 women were dying in childbirth, 8 in 10 women were illiterate, one in nine children did not live to see their fifth birthday, one in three people never attended school, half of the population had no access to improved sources of drinking water, and more than half of the civil service did not have a primary education. It was also noted that endemic poverty and chronic underdevelopment heavily affected the ability of the new State to provide basic services and respond to humanitarian needs, rendering communities vulnerable to the effects of poverty, insecurity, displacement, food and nutrition insecurity, outbreaks of disease and seasonal floods. Furthermore, prospects for diversified growth were not in place in the near term owing to the lack of infrastructure, education and State capacity. According to information from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, about 2 per cent of the road network is paved and, during the rainy season (June to October), 60 per cent of roads are not accessible. In addition, only about 1 per cent of the population has access to electricity.

11. From this low level of development, the conflict has further undermined the prospects for future growth. The most immediate impact has been on oil production. Financing nearly 80 per cent of the Government's overall budget, oil provides 98 per cent of public sector revenue, contributes 60 per cent to gross domestic product and to almost all foreign exchange earnings, thus making the South Sudanese economy highly vulnerable to changes in oil prices and oil production levels. An inadequately diversified economy is more exposed to economic shocks and volatile global commodity markets. Heavy reliance on oil revenues means that South Sudan is at the mercy of economic cycles of boom and bust, making fiscal discipline difficult and long-term planning complicated. An oil revenue management act has been adopted, although challenges in its implementation remain.

12. The conflict has led to the shutdown of operations of some oil fields and the partial shutdown of others, with deleterious effects on oil production, which is now estimated to be less than half of the 350,000 barrels per day at the time of independence. The resulting shortfalls, heavy reliance on forward sales of future oil flows and extensive redirection of available revenues to finance security priorities will likely lead to significant increases in the fiscal deficit while crippling nascent government services. This has had an impact on the payment of salaries and State transfers for basic social services. Insecurity has broken existing supply chains, cutting off market-based commodity flows to several parts of the country. The uncertainty created by this has deterred investment, both foreign and domestic. Planned infrastructure projects, including refineries, dams and road construction, have been suspended. Projects critical for rural development and economic diversification away from the oil sector await political stability, enhanced governance and adequate security. The foreign exchange rate has remained largely stable. However, with respect to prices of basic commodities, the conflict has created two worlds, with relative stability in prices in states not affected by conflict and significant price increases in conflict-affected ones. For example, the price of sorghum in Bentiu is three times higher than in Juba. Markets are barely functioning in the conflict-affected states.

13. In the short term, the country faces considerable challenges. The most immediate concern is the crisis and its attendant implications and consequences for lives and livelihoods. Extensive population displacements, looting of warehouses (humanitarian and private sector alike), disruptions to food production, destruction of markets, dislocation of livestock from traditional migration routes, diseases and hunger have combined to generate a threat of famine. Between December 2013 and August 2014, some 3.5 million people were classified as being in the acute or emergency phases of food insecurity, out of a total of 7 million (of a population of 11.5 million) at risk of food insecurity. Malnutrition associated with widespread food insecurity is a major concern and will have a significant short- and longer-term impact on communities, in particular children and lactating women. Nutrition screenings have shown an estimated prevalence of global acute malnutrition ranging from over 30 per cent to 50 per cent in the conflict-affected areas, while malnutrition rates are alarming in states that neighbour the conflict-affected states. Malnutrition among children has doubled since the beginning of the year; some 50,000 children could die from malnutrition in 2014. Joint efforts from United Nations agencies are under way in conflict-affected and other high-burden areas to increase the treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition, as well as to prevent children from falling into malnutrition through blanket supplementary feeding programmes. The ongoing conflict has also disproportionately affected women and girls, who suffer hideous consequences of the violence, abuse, deprivation and loss of livelihoods. United Nations agencies have initiated interventions, including the provision of direct livelihood and extended protection assistance to displaced women and girls as a way to address gender gaps in the prevailing humanitarian crisis.

14. The ongoing conflict has also brought to the fore challenges with regard to health and sanitation. An already high disease burden has increased substantially, exacerbated by the rainy season, which has raised the risk of transmission of water-borne and other communicable diseases. A cholera outbreak resulted in more than 6,000 cases and led to 139 deaths. While the United Nations and its partners have

made concerted efforts with the Ministry of Health to limit the spread of cholera, the continued grave health risks posed by poor hygiene and sanitary conditions continue to test the nation's weak health-care system. Compounding these difficulties, hospitals have been attacked, looted or, in some instances, severely damaged as a result of the conflict, notably in Bor, Bentiu, Malakal and Nassir. Amid this, it is encouraging to note that South Sudan has been free of polio for more than five years. Some development work also continues. For example, according to information from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the first blood bank in South Sudan and national and regional public health laboratories were established in July 2014. The facilities, established through the Global Fund, aim to improve the country's diagnosis and disease surveillance for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, tropical diseases and epidemic diseases, such as cholera.

15. At present, approximately 57 per cent of children and adolescents in South Sudan do not attend school. There are high levels of dropouts and delayed entry: 75 per cent of 6-year-olds are not in school and 92 per cent of grade 8 students are overage. The percentage is much higher in conflict-affected states, where children are prevented from attending school as a result of insecurity, displacement or schools' occupation by armed forces. It is estimated that only 5-10 per cent of about 1,130 primary schools in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States are functioning. In hard-to-reach areas of conflict-affected states, national authorities have been unable (or, in the case of territory not under the control of the Government, unwilling) to pay teachers' salaries and support the re-establishment of services. Many teachers have left conflict-affected areas, or work as casual labourers instead of as teachers. United Nations agencies and partners have supported 54,607 conflict-affected children in resuming their education through the provision of temporary learning spaces, education supplies and training for teachers.

16. The crisis in South Sudan has also put already vulnerable children at greater risk of harm, including abduction, physical injuries, sexual violence, psychological distress and child marriage. Approximately 6,088 unaccompanied and separated children have been identified by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and its partners since the conflict began in December 2013, and have been assisted through family tracing and reunification services. UNICEF, other United Nations agencies and implementing partners continue to advocate against the sustained recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups. UNICEF and its partners have reached 65,587 children and adolescents with essential child protection services, including psychosocial support, case management and referrals. The severe lack of qualified teachers in South Sudan has led to unprecedented teacher-to-student ratios, jeopardizing the quality of core educational elements, such as basic literacy. Furthermore, access to vital livelihood education, such as technical and vocational training, as well as non-formal education options, including agricultural skills and pastoralist education, are extremely limited. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is working to combat these challenges by implementing child, youth and adult literacy and life skills activities in all states. Additional efforts are under way to enhance the training of teachers and increase access to vocational and pastoralist education. Neglect of these critical areas will continue to hamper efforts in combating the country's extraordinarily high rates of illiteracy. Without literacy, there is limited access to basic and life-saving information on rights, such as health care, as well as livelihood and employment opportunities.

IV. United Nations support to South Sudan

17. Early in 2013, the Government of South Sudan and the United Nations country team agreed to extend the initial United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2012-2013) until 30 June 2016. The country team decided to revise and update the results framework. The extended and revised Development Assistance Framework was expected to be signed and launched by the Government and the country team in December 2013, but the crisis erupted before this was achieved. The country team has therefore decided to once again revise the Framework to determine its contributions to the achievement of the South Sudan Development Plan objectives within a radically transformed operating environment. A number of development programmes have been suspended or redesigned because donors have also undertaken reviews of their funding policies, principles of engagement and support to development programmes as a result of the conflict.

18. Since the onset of the crisis, UNMISS has also put its State-building and peacebuilding activities on hold. As the crisis persisted, in May 2014 the Security Council, by its resolution 2155 (2014), revised the UNMISS mandate to focus on four priority areas: protection of civilians; human rights monitoring and reporting; creating the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and supporting the cessation of hostilities agreement. As a result, UNMISS has now ceased Mission tasks that are not mandated under resolution 2155 (2014), including State-building and peacebuilding activities.

19. With respect to humanitarian assistance and protection, the United Nations system has been proactive in working with the international community to support the needs of the South Sudanese population. At the request of the Humanitarian Coordinator on behalf of the humanitarian country team, and following consultations with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee principals, the Emergency Relief Coordinator declared a three-month Standing Committee system-wide level 3 emergency response to the escalating conflict in South Sudan on 11 February 2014; this was subsequently extended by an additional six months until November 2014. A call to action, led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development and the European Union, was made on 12 April 2014, in which a call was made for more support for the people of South Sudan, who have been severely affected by conflict, displacement and food insecurity.

20. According to information from the humanitarian country team, in order to continue to scale up funding and meet the overwhelming levels of need, a United Nations crisis response plan was adopted and an appeal for $1.27 billion launched early in February 2014, replacing the earlier consolidated appeal process for the country prepared in late 2013. At the midyear point, in June 2014, the humanitarian community updated its crisis response plan, calling for $1.8 billion in aid. The common humanitarian fund has been used flexibly to fund response activities in line with the shifting pattern of needs and evolving priorities, and the Central Emergency Response Fund has played a significant role in financing critical gaps in the response. Together, these two pooled funds have allocated $93 million to critical activities in South Sudan to date, with more expected before the end of 2014. A high-level humanitarian conference, co-organized by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Government of Norway and held on 19 and 20 May 2014 in Oslo, was designed to support and help to fund the crisis response plan. The conference, which was attended by more than 300 representatives from South

Sudan, donor Governments, regional organizations, international and national NGOs and the United Nations, resulted in pledges of $610 million in new funding. In order to further scale up funding to meet the overwhelming levels of need, the humanitarian community in South Sudan released a revised crisis response plan, seeking $1.8 billion to assist 3.8 million people affected by the crisis by the end of 2014. As at 2 September, the crisis response plan was 53 per cent funded, leaving a shortfall of about $842 million to meet people's needs until the end of the year.

V. Prospects and recommendations

21. South Sudan represents arguably the single largest State-building challenge currently faced by the United Nations system. The wealth of the country was expected to benefit the population equitably and to reverse the legacy of warfare, underdevelopment and marginalization, but these aspirations have been significantly curtailed. Delivery systems across all sectors are still fragile and often dysfunctional. Corruption affects many levels of Government. Accountability mechanisms, where they exist, have failed to deter the misuse and mismanagement of public resources, in particular public oil revenues. While there is no question about the length and difficulty of the transition confronting South Sudan, there are pertinent concerns about ensuring macroeconomic stability, inclusive growth and employment. Although oil production remains the cornerstone of the country's economy, environmental considerations need to be incorporated into sustainable development planning. Prospects for renewed development throughout South Sudan appear slim, especially as there are currently few concrete signs of an end to the conflict.

22. **While a cessation of hostilities agreement has been signed and a commitment made to work on the formation of a transitional Government, so far both sides continue to pursue a military solution. No concrete evidence has yet emerged that the political will exists to meet the commitments made under the IGAD-led mediation. A recent analysis of the budget carried out by UNDP shows that a dominant part of the allocation has been used to pay the salaries of the army and veterans, with some provisions for operating costs and new capital expenditures. The same is true of the rule of law sector, where 1.573 billion South Sudanese pounds is being used to pay salaries to police, prison and fire services. In contrast, social sector allocations and outlays on rebuilding infrastructure in the country are pegged at less than 20 per cent of the current budget and have shown a decline relative to 2012/13, the first fiscal year after independence. In average terms, the total resources budgeted for allocation to the core development sectors (education, health and infrastructure), increased marginally, from 3.1 per cent in 2013/14 to 4.3 per cent in 2014/15. When compared with the allocations made to the security sector, it is evident that the Government continues to disproportionately restrict resource allocation for development, which in turn is a binding constraint on its ability to deliver basic social services to its citizens. This trend needs to be reversed urgently, as South Sudan faces some of the worst global vital human development indicators.**[2] **Urgent action by the international**

[2] Olympio Attipoe, Biplove Choudhary and Nicholas Jonga, "An analysis of government budgets in South Sudan from a human development perspective", discussion paper 08/2014 (UNDP, 2014). Available from www.ss.undp.org/content/south_sudan/en/home/library/discussion-papers/an-analysis-of-government-budgets-in-south-sudan-from-a-human-de/.

community to push for both a resolution of the conflict and a rebalancing of budgetary priorities is required.

23. In the meantime, the economy remains stalled. Foreign investment has slowed significantly, many foreign workers have left the country, and stability has yet to return. The war has destroyed many emerging businesses, and both production of and exploration for oil have been significantly reduced. While some investors who have committed substantial resources may return as the political situation improves, prospective investors, including regional ones, are likely to be cautious for many years to come. While the impact of the political situation on the economy of the country's regional trading partners has not yet been calculated, there is no doubt that trade and investment with neighbouring countries has been significantly affected.

24. Without demonstrated commitment to solve the political crisis, prospects for sustainable development remain low. The people of South Sudan continue to need the strong support of the international community. In this context, there is an urgent need for predictable resources to meet the humanitarian needs of the country. The crisis response plan should therefore be fully funded without delay. There should also be appropriate levels of funding that would provide the United Nations system with sufficient flexibility to respond to new challenges as they emerge.

25. Despite the urgent humanitarian needs, more efforts should also be made to promote reconciliation and early recovery. This can be done by using recovery activities to focus on creating emergency employment, invest in youth development activities, initiate programmes to enhance community security and control of arms in civilians' hands, help small businesses to get back on their feet and restore livelihoods, for example through the provision of seeds and farming equipment, credit and vocational training. Such measures could be a vital first step towards reviving the economy. Once peace and security are restored, opportunities for peace dividends for the war-weary citizens of South Sudan can follow.

26. Given the unique peace, security, peacebuilding and development challenges facing South Sudan, the integrated United Nations support being provided at the technical and operational levels should be complemented by strong, integrated policy support and guidance at the intergovernmental level by all relevant United Nations organs and bodies, within their respective mandates and competencies. The immediate challenge is to urge the parties to the conflict to turn their tentative steps towards a peace agreement into reality on the ground. This is necessary in order to build confidence among the people of South Sudan in the prospects for sustainable peace. As this process takes hold, the United Nations system must help the people of South Sudan to quickly heal the rifts between them in order to reduce the risk of a relapse into conflict. Only then can the nation truly begin to return to the path towards sustainable development that was the aspiration of its people following the Comprehensive Peace Agreement with the Sudan in 2005 and the country's independence in 2011.

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Coordination, programme and other questions: long-term programme of support for Haiti

Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti**

Summary

The present report highlights the main findings of the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti following its visits to Washington, D.C., and to Haiti and in the light of meetings held in New York. The Advisory Group welcomes the tangible progress observed in Haiti on the economic and social fronts, which goes well beyond post-earthquake recovery efforts. It also expresses concerns as to the sustainability of the development process in the current political context. Despite these concerns, the Group emphasizes the need for continued donor engagement given the high vulnerability of the country, in terms of both natural disasters and economic shocks, and the need to sustain the development progress that has been achieved. United Nations support must be adapted to better answer these needs, in the context of the transition to a possible consolidation of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The Group also advocates a "Delivering as one" approach to guide United Nations action on the ground. In addition, it calls for increased aid effectiveness through improved and simplified donor support and accelerated governance reforms by the Haitian authorities, with a view to creating new momentum for effective development support for the country.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.
** Submitted late in order to reflect the latest developments in Haiti.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is the tenth submitted by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti since its reactivation in 2004. Following a request made by the Government of Haiti at the time, the Economic and Social Council adopted its resolution 2004/52, in which it decided to reactivate the Group, which was established in 1999 to help coordinate the development of a long-term programme of support for the country.

Mandate and composition of the Group

2. In accordance with Council decisions 2004/322, 2009/211, 2009/267, 2011/207, 2011/211, 2013/209, 2014/207, 2014/210 and 2014/221, the Group is composed of the permanent representatives of Argentina, the Bahamas, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, France, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay to the United Nations and the representative of the United States of America to the Economic and Social Council. Since its first meeting, on 23 November 2004, the Group has been chaired by the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations. As stipulated in decision 2004/322, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti are invited to take part in the Group's meetings.

3. In its resolution 2013/15, the Economic and Social Council decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until its substantive session in July 2014, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on long-term national development priorities, building on the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms. The Council requested the Group to report on its activities to the Council at its substantive session of 2014.

Outline of the activities of the Group

4. The Group's visits to Washington, D.C., and Haiti are the basis for most of the conclusions contained in the present report. On 28 April 2014, the Group went to Washington, D.C., where it met senior officials from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Organization of American States (OAS). A working lunch with representatives of the American Jewish World Service, a non-governmental organization (NGO) active in Haiti, was also organized. From 12 to 15 May 2014, the Group carried out its annual visit to Haiti, where it met President Michel Martelli, Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe, Minister for Foreign Affairs Duly Brutus, the President of the Senate, Dieuseul Simon Desras, other high-level officials, civil society representatives and a wide range of development actors. The Group also visited projects led by United Nations organizations, in particular the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), as well as a camp for internally displaced persons in metropolitan Port-au-Prince supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

5. In preparation for and to debrief on the two visits, the Group organized meetings with the Group of Friends of Haiti in New York, including a meeting with

Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary-General of OAS, and a working session with Yves Robert Jean, Director-General of Planning of Haiti, and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti.

6. The members of the Group wish to express their profound gratitude to the Haitian authorities, civil society representatives and development partners of the country who gave freely of their time to explain their activities and share their analysis with the Group in Haiti, New York and Washington, D.C. The Group wishes to express its particular appreciation to the highest authorities of Haiti for the open and constructive exchange it had with them. In addition, the Group is grateful to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat for its constant and dedicated support for its work; to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the two Deputy Special Representatives; and the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. during the Group's visit, as well as the entire United Nations country team for their excellent support. The Group is also grateful to the international financial institutions and OAS for their continued interaction and their willingness to share views and analysis. The programme of the Group's visits to Washington, D.C., and Haiti is contained in the annex to the present report.

II. Momentum for development on the ground

7. With a growth rate of 4.3 per cent in 2013, Haiti has reached a new phase in its development process. The level of economic activity and the physical improvements in Port-au-Prince are a great source of encouragement. Efforts made by the Government to reach out to the private sector and promote investment have obviously led to positive results, in particular with regard to road infrastructure, the construction of private housing and the opening of new hotels and businesses. The Group was pleased to note the useful role of the United Nations system, in particular UNOPS, in these efforts. The construction of infrastructure in the provinces (including roads, airports and wharves) is also promising. While the Group witnessed strong signs of recovery in 2013 (see E/2013/90, in particular paras. 8 and 9), this year's visit has shown that the country is now engaged in a construction and development phase that goes well beyond post-earthquake reconstruction efforts.

8. Inflation has fallen from 6.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent (year to year), with a modest depreciation of the gourde. In this context, the International Monetary Fund has qualified the macroeconomic performance in fiscal year 2013 as favourable and performance under the Fund's Extended Credit Facility-supported programme as broadly satisfactory. In an international context marked by slow recovery and continued economic constraints in many parts of the world, this generally positive performance by Haiti deserves to be highlighted.

9. The overall objective of the strategic plan for the development of Haiti formulated by the Government for the period 2010-2030 is for the country to become an emerging country within 15 years. Although this requires massive investments and a marked increase in the average income of the population, recent progress suggests that Haiti has embarked on a path that can bring it closer to this ambitious goal if progress is sustained and Haiti does not relapse into political turmoil.

10. Some social progress was also observed. It is estimated that poverty decreased by 4-5 per cent in urban areas, although inequalities remain high. The country's 2013 Millennium Development Goals report, "*Haïti : un nouveau regard*", launched earlier this year by the Government of Haiti and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), indicates that important progress has been made on most Millennium Development Goal indicators. Extreme poverty has declined from 31 per cent to 24 per cent since 2000, and some targets have been reached ahead of the deadline, such as the reduction by half in the number of underweight children. The Haitian Institute of Statistics and Informatics issued new data based on a Household Living Conditions Survey supported by the World Bank, which show that both income and access to services have improved.

11. The Government has been paying increased attention to extreme poverty and implements several cash-transfer programmes targeting the poorest. Through these programmes, for example, students can receive direct subsidies and poor mothers whose children attend schools are supported. Progress has also been made on Millennium Development Goal 2, on education, with school attendance reaching 88 per cent. Food assistance programmes, including the opening of community restaurants, are also laudable initiatives, in particular in rural areas, where extreme poverty remains widespread and local food production should be further supported.

12. Following the same trend, child mortality has decreased by 44 per cent since 1990, at a faster pace than globally, and 90 per cent of women have at least one prenatal care visit during pregnancy, thereby contributing to a marked decrease in maternal mortality, estimated at 157 per 100,000 live births by the Ministry of Public Health and Population, which released maternal mortality statistics for the first time in 2013. It is recalled that, according to the findings of the 2012 Demographic and Health Survey (*Enquête mortalité, morbidité et utilisation des services, EMMUS V*), the fertility rate in Haiti dropped from 6.3 children per woman in 1987 to 4 in 2006 and 3.5 in 2012, an encouraging trend that will have major consequences for the long-term development of the country, especially if positive results are also achieved in rural areas. During its visit, the Group witnessed the effective support provided by UNFPA and MINUSTAH to a nursing and midwifery school as well as to maternity clinics in the metropolitan area, and it was impressed by the involvement of Haitian health professionals in the building of facilities that make a difference in women's lives.

13. At the political level, the inter-Haitian political dialogue took several steps forward earlier this year. Through the political agreement known as the El Rancho accord, which was facilitated by the Episcopal Conference of Haiti, the decision was made to hold combined elections by 26 October 2014 for two thirds of the Senate, the entire Chamber of Deputies, municipal administrations and local councils. It also called for the conversion of the transitional Electoral Council into a new provisional Electoral Council, with each branch of government able to replace one of its three members. Following the agreement, the Cabinet was reshuffled and the Chamber of Deputies adopted an electoral law, which remains to be approved by the Senate. Although this process has not eased political tensions, in particular between the executive branch and a group of six senators, the fact that political parties are holding a dialogue, with the support of civil society actors, is a step in the right direction in building the capacity of the society to devise collective solutions.

14. However, this process must be completed by the organization of long-overdue elections in order to avoid a situation in which local authorities and the National Assembly no longer enjoy a legal mandate and the Government is placed in a position where it would be necessary to set a date for elections, and carry out other functions, by decree. This could have detrimental effects on the confidence of donors and the delivery of development support to Haiti, where the risk of donor fatigue is always present, even among long-term partners. Ensuring the proper functioning of fundamental political institutions must be a priority, inasmuch as international support remains of crucial importance for the full realization of Haiti's development objectives.

III. Need for continued donor engagement

15. Development processes require time, and this applies even more to Haiti given its vulnerability to man-made and natural disasters. Political instability has prevailed over the past three decades and can still jeopardize development support. In that respect, the decisions of Haitian political actors are the key factors. However, there are other risks over which Haitians have little control. Natural disasters, particularly flooding resulting from hurricanes and earthquakes, are recurrent obstacles to development and have led to the degradation of Haiti's physical environment.

16. In addition, Haiti is a small economy open to the world and is therefore sensitive to regional and global trends. An increase in the price of commodities can create shocks to the Haitian economy, with direct consequences, for instance, in the energy and transportation sectors, putting additional pressure on the Government to absorb such increases through public subsidies. Similarly, the volatility of other commodities, in particular wheat and rice, has direct effects on the country's balance of payments.

17. The energy sector is broadly considered to be one of the weakest parts of the Haitian economy, with insufficient infrastructure and poor management. The rehabilitation of the Peligre dam is a promising step. However, the process of transforming public utilities will necessarily take time, and the Government is likely to absorb deficits in this area for a long period before the system can be effectively restructured.

18. Building capacities in Haiti is a long process that will require continued involvement by all relevant actors in order to achieve sustainable progress. The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2010 (Istanbul Programme of Action) calls for the international community to mobilize sustained support to strengthen the productive capacities of the least developing countries, a group that includes Haiti, under the leadership of those countries. In the case of Haiti, special attention needs to be given to the agricultural, manufacturing and tourism sectors.

19. The education sector is another with respect to which time is needed. As mentioned above, concrete results have been achieved in terms of school construction and access to education, including through a dedicated conditional cash transfer programme and the establishment of a new tax to fund it. However, all actors recognize that the quality of education remains insufficient and will continue to be so until the structures to train future teachers and enforce education standards are in place and commensurate with the needs of the country.

20. Progress on the environmental front also remains very uneven. A significant increase in forest plantations has not yet reversed the trend towards deforestation (natural forests represent only 2 per cent of the land area), inasmuch as over 90 per cent of Haitian households continue to use charcoal to cook their meals. The Group noted the increased consumption of propane gas, facilitated by tax incentives and subsidies, and its use in houses rebuilt with the support of UNOPS in the metropolitan area, which the Group visited. The United Nations system has a catalytic role to play in this respect and should continue to do so through its portfolio of projects and by scaling up such innovations when they are successful. Much remains to be done to achieve effective environmental protection, with a needed focus on biodiversity protection and sanitation.

21. The state reform process, led by the Office of Management and Human Resources, under the Office of the Prime Minister, is conceived as a long-term exercise that may take up to 10 years. Meanwhile, mentoring activities by the United Nations system and other development partners are crucial to steadily enhance skills in the public service, both in the central administration and in the provinces and municipalities, where capacities are particularly weak. Consequently, the continued technical and financial involvement of partners, including in the strengthening of the École nationale d'administration publique and the provision of equipment and facilities, remains a necessary condition for reaching the ambitious development goals that have rightly been set by the Government.

22. While the growth rate and newly released statistics on poverty are encouraging, many economists and development partners with whom the Group met, including from the international financial institutions, expect that it will take time before growth can be significantly reflected in the living standards of the population. This is all the more problematical because income inequality has increased in Haiti, whose Gini coefficient decreased from 0.66 in 2012 to 0.61 in 2001. The official unemployment rate is 27 per cent, and it is estimated that two thirds of the population is unemployed or underemployed. According to the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, employment does not allow many individuals to satisfy their basic needs, as 44.9 per cent of working persons live on less than $1.25 a day. Rising inequality is a destabilizing factor that should not be underestimated. Continued investment in other ways to reduce poverty, pending more widespread benefits of growth to the population, is therefore a requirement.

23. According to recent figures, some 90,000 displaced persons continue to live in camps, a sharp decrease compared with 1.3 million following the earthquake. Living conditions, in particular the sanitary situation, are extremely poor. In spite of training and awareness-raising activities implemented by IOM and other organizations, the national and international presence in these camps did not appear to the Group as being commensurate with the needs of the population and with the threat that diseases, including those that have recently appeared in the country, such as cholera and chikungunya, constitute for these vulnerable persons. The Group therefore calls for continued humanitarian assistance. It also stresses the important role of IOM and the United Nations system in these efforts, given that a significant number of international NGOs have ceased their operations in the country after providing emergency assistance in the aftermath of the earthquake and the cholera outbreak.

24. While the Group understands the concern, raised by the Haitian authorities, that the continued provision of services encourages the displaced persons to become long-term residents of these camps, the Group also stresses the importance of well-targeted support for populations in such precarious conditions, particularly as far as access to water and sanitation is concerned. Such support can also include subsidies for the relocation of people and the dismantling of tents, as witnessed by the Group in Camp Dahomey, where the exercise was supported by IOM. National actors are expected to play a proactive role in providing sustainable solutions and to solicit support from the international community when needed.

25. Momentum is being generated in Haiti that needs to be supported in an appropriate manner. The possibility of a sharp decrease in international support is a matter of concern for many actors working on the ground. It is also a concern for the sustainability of United Nations support for Haiti, which is undergoing a transition phase.

IV. Adapting United Nations support in the context of transition

26. The United Nations country team in Haiti consists of 19 agencies, funds and programmes. The size and scope of their activities have varied significantly in past years, with a significant increase following the January 2010 earthquake and a steady decrease since 2012. The latter is due to reduced funding, in particular the non-replenishment of the Haiti Reconstruction Fund, set up after the earthquake. These fluctuations have made it difficult for the entities concerned to adjust to the changing needs of the country and limit their capacity to take over functions from a consolidated MINUSTAH. The Group stresses the important role that the United Nations country team carries out in supporting the Haitian authorities, in particular during the transition phase in which the United Nations presence is engaged, and calls upon donors to ensure that funding to support key government priorities is provided. The Group also welcomes the recent decision by the International Labour Organization to re-establish a permanent presence in Haiti.

27. The common approach and cooperation mechanism among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, together with the activities of MINUSTAH in the development field, are reflected in the integrated strategic framework. The current framework is a four-year strategy for the period 2013-2016 that, in addition to economic and social programmes, places an emphasis on support for the rule of law, governance and disaster risk management. It is aligned with the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti and has been endorsed by the Government.

28. Earlier this year, heads of agency decided to anticipate the midterm review of the integrated strategic framework in order to better take into account new elements such as the possible consolidation of MINUSTAH, longer-term programming, new strategic documents from the Government, including its triennial investment plan, and new sources of data for baselines and indicators. The Group welcomes this initiative and looks forward to learning more about the revised framework.

29. In this context, the Group stresses the need to take additional steps towards a "Delivering as one" approach to the work of the United Nations system in Haiti. As Haiti evolves away from a humanitarian and reconstruction phase to embrace a true development process, modalities for more integrated functioning of United Nations entities should be defined. In addition to maximizing the use of resources, such an

approach could create incentives for the Government to develop national programmes across ministerial lines and to turn to the United Nations system for joint funding. It would also make it easier for donors to channel support through the United Nations system, thanks to increased clarity and flexibility. The Group calls upon the United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti to take proactive steps in this direction and encourages United Nations entities on the ground, including UNDP, to engage in these efforts.

30. The Group witnessed the added value of joint efforts by several United Nations entities when it visited the new National Midwifery School (École nationale des infirmières sages-femmes), whose construction was undertaken by engineering units of MINUSTAH while equipment, supplies, the revision of the curriculum and technical support for operations are being provided by UNFPA. The facility, located within Haiti's largest maternity hospital, has opened its doors to 80 midwifery students after two years of disruption following the collapse of the former school building during the earthquake. The Group also visited a maternity and family planning centre, supported by UNFPA in collaboration with UNOPS and United Nations Volunteers, in Port-au-Prince. It encourages the United Nations system to expand such activities in the provinces, given the continued need to improve maternal health throughout the country.

31. Similarly, the Group recalls the integrated programme called "Initiative Côte Sud" run by several agencies (UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme and UNOPS, with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and others), which it visited in 2013. This project, aimed at promoting sustainable development in the South Department, constitutes a "Delivering as one" experience at the local level that could usefully inspire other initiatives of the United Nations system on a wider scale.

32. The Group was pleased to note the emphasis placed by the United Nations system on the strengthening of national capacities. For example, in the health sector, the World Health Organization and the United Nations system at large support the Government's plans and the Secretary-General himself has launched the second phase of a major vaccination campaign against cholera as well as a sanitation campaign in the Centre Department, together with the Prime Minister. The United Nations system also provides important support for the Haitian structures set up to prevent and manage disasters.

33. The work of United Nations specialized agencies in Haiti may not always be very visible, as it is focused on developing capacities and implies a longer-term involvement in mentoring national structures in support of sectoral ministries. It is, however, very important to increase the absorptive capacities of the Haitian institutions.

34. As indicated by the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council (see S/2014/617), the consolidation and transition process in which MINUSTAH is now engaged is expected to lead to a reduced physical and staffing footprint of the Mission, beyond the troops themselves. Incremental disengagement from the Mission is therefore likely in areas related to institution-building. In its report to the Council last year (E/2013/90), the Group recognized that the gradual transfer of responsibility for activities from MINUSTAH to United Nations agencies in such areas as governance, human rights and disaster preparedness might prove difficult, given budgetary constraints. Special efforts are therefore needed to secure continued assistance by the United Nations system in peacebuilding-related areas.

35. The Group welcomes the idea of a comprehensive transition plan exercise involving MINUSTAH, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the Government of Haiti and donors that contribute to the United Nations system on the ground. Increased cooperation among United Nations entities to optimize the use of resources is part of the solution, in the spirit of "Delivering as one" initiatives. Joint mobilization of resources will also be important in order to involve donors. Throughout this process, United Nations agencies should provide backup and means to their offices in Haiti commensurate with their needs in these exceptional circumstances.

36. The question of a contingency plan for the United Nations humanitarian and development activities in case of a significant reduction in the presence of MINUSTAH should also be addressed, although there seems to be a general agreement as to the maintenance of a strong police component in the Mission. Indeed, support provided to the Haitian National Police should be maintained at a high level, at least until the objective of 15,000 officers, set for 2016, is reached. At the time of reporting, the strength of the national police stood at approximately 11,000 officers (less than 19 per cent of whom are women), which calls for continued efforts to recruit and train cadets. The donor community should keep in mind that the proper functioning of the national police is key for embedding the rule of law in Haiti and sustaining development gains, and that these go hand in hand.

V. Increasing aid effectiveness

37. Since the mandate of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission ended in October 2012, the relationship between the Government of Haiti and its development partners has been based on the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, which outlines a longer-term vision and articulates the three dimensions of sustainable development and the need for governance reform. The Strategic Plan has been translated into successive triennial investment plans that focus on growth acceleration and poverty reduction and are to be included in the annual finance law.

38. The Strategic Plan makes explicit reference to the effectiveness of development assistance, including effective control by beneficiary countries over their development policy, the coordination of assistance and the alignment of donor support for the country's strategies.

39. In practice, donor coordination in Haiti is facilitated by the Group of Twelve Plus, an informal forum for donor coordination where 15 bilateral and multilateral actors meet at least once a month, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, whose office provides secretariat support to the group. In addition, the UNDP Country Director is an observer at the meetings. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group welcomes the important role of the United Nations system in these endeavours in support of the Haitian authorities and the donor community at large.

40. The Group of Twelve Plus was an active partner in the creation of the new external aid coordination framework (*Cadre de coordination de l'aide externe au développement d'Haïti*), launched in November 2012 to establish better alignment between external development aid and national priorities. In March 2014, the first national meeting of the Committee on Aid Effectiveness, a body established under the framework, was held with a wide range of participants and led to a statement in which participants agreed to the implementation of a joint road map.

41. The operationalization of these mechanisms is to be made possible through the planning and study units set up in all line ministries. These units are pivotal in the process of conceptualizing, planning and monitoring projects as well as coordinating activities carried out by partners and providing support to the sector and thematic tables (*tables sectorielles et thématiques*). The latter are forums involving all actors and NGOs in a given sector, under the leadership of a specific ministry. In practice, the planning and study units remain weak, and progress in strengthening them is contingent on the will of individual ministers to carry out reforms and to make use of the units. Ministries should be further encouraged to operationalize these mechanisms in order to increase public accountability, donor confidence and aid delivery. The thematic and sector tables, which have produced mixed results, should also be used in a much more systematic way.

42. The alignment of aid with the Government's priorities and strategies is another area where progress could be made. The Haitian authorities expressed strong expectations as to the alignment of donor support. To make substantive progress in this area, the implementation of the triennial investment plans that operationalize the Strategic Plan should be prepared for in consultation with partners and with the strong involvement of sector ministries, well beyond the Ministry of Planning.

43. Progress on aid effectiveness requires increased transparency on various fronts. Donors are to adhere to transparency commitments by sharing information about their activities with the Ministry of Planning, which is responsible for tracking aid disbursements. At the same time, the donor community expects from the Government a number of institutional reforms related to the management of public finances, public administration and procurement processes. In this regard, the Group welcomes the elaboration of a new law on corruption. Reforms also require strengthening oversight institutions, including the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes, and making information available to the parliament. It is also a matter of avoiding over-the-counter agreements (*contrats de gré à gré*) and keeping well-documented records of procurement procedures. Such reforms are likely to lead some donors to increase direct budgetary support. The Group urges all actors to take additional steps towards the full realization of their commitments in that respect.

44. Haitian development actors continue to ask for the simplification of disbursement procedures by donor organizations in order to accelerate project implementation. Several interlocutors of the Group agreed that some progress had been made in that respect, facilitated by the higher number of Haitian contractors capable of implementing activities. Given the importance of the issue in the perception of development support on the part of Haitian recipients, these procedures should be regularly reviewed and adjusted with a view to promoting efficiency in aid delivery.

45. The absence of a national budget approved by the parliament for the current year has been a barrier to greater aid effectiveness, as the Government is operating on the previous year's budget. The financing of more than half of the budget continues to depend on international support. The Government also benefits from funding under the Petrocaribe alliance, which represents a significant part of total domestic revenue and contributes to the funding of cash transfer and other programmes. Haiti and all its development partners would benefit from a regular dialogue on the budgetary implications of international support in order to promote predictability of resources and avoid unsustainable patterns.

46. Over the past year, the Government has taken steps to renew its partnerships with non-governmental organizations. On 8 October 2013, the Prime Minister opened the National NGO Forum, following a commitment made the previous year at a meeting held on the sidelines of the General Assembly to discuss the role of NGOs in the development process. Over 500 NGOs are now registered with and legally recognized by the Ministry of Planning. The Group, which has always met representatives of civil society during its visits, is encouraged by these developments. It praises the United Nations in Haiti for its efforts to promote civil society participation in aid coordination mechanisms, including the sectoral tables, although the actual contribution of NGOs has been uneven. There continues to be a need to clarify and streamline procedures and regulations for NGOs working in Haiti, and the Group encourages further work on the draft legislation prepared on the matter through an open and participatory process, with a view to renewing the collaborative relations between the Government and NGOs.

47. Mechanisms for major qualitative improvements in aid effectiveness are in place in Haiti. They should now be fully used to promote accountability and engage the country in a new phase of its relations with the donor community. The Government is driving the process and has devised relevant instruments to guide the whole development process. It should promote them collectively to donors in such a way as to ensure that they are aligned with the work of the various ministries. Follow-up to the road map developed in the context of the external aid coordination framework should be strengthened, including through greater involvement of Haitian leaders. The contribution of all partners, whether traditional or South-South cooperation actors, is also essential for the relevance of the process. The Group calls upon the Government of Haiti and all its partners to give high priority to this exercise.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

48. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group has witnessed continued progress in the economic and social situation in Haiti since the devastating earthquake of January 2010. While in the past it expressed concern as to a lack of vision of Haiti's medium- to long-term development, the Group is now encouraged by the existence of planning tools that articulate an ambitious agenda for Haiti and concrete development objectives. The Group also welcomes tangible progress made on the ground on the economic and social fronts and congratulates all Haitian development actors on their hard work in taking Haiti to the next step of its history.

49. As concrete as this progress may be, the Group continues to have concerns as to the sustainability of the development process in the current political circumstances. At the time of reporting, the holding of elections, which are long overdue, is uncertain and political tensions continue without a willingness to find agreeable solutions. These political disputes echo the weaknesses of regulatory institutions, including the justice system and corrections, and reveal how fragile the rule of law remains in Haiti. The willingness to abide by well-defined written norms and to build the administrative and judicial structures required to enforce them does not seem to have taken hold yet; hence the need for continued mentoring of and support for Haitian institutions. The Group is of the view that the capacity to provide assistance to Haitian

institutions should be scaled up as the United Nations peacekeeping presence is downscaled, with an important role being given to both MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team. Such United Nations support is crucial to sustain development gains and move the positive momentum that exists on the ground to the next step.

50. Given Haiti's continued fragility and the economic and social needs associated with being a least developed country, Haiti's development partners should remain engaged with the Government and do so in a true partnership in which dialogue and transparency prevail on both sides. The Group encourages the Government and its partners to move forward in this direction and to consider drafting a compact in which the expectations of each part will be defined and medium-term goals set. For ease of reference, the main recommendations contained in the body of the present report are summarized below for the consideration of all relevant actors and for the Council.

51. In order to sustain the development process, the Group encourages Haiti's development partners to:

(a) Take an active part in the donor coordination mechanisms, in particular the external aid coordination framework, and work towards the implementation of joint commitments together with traditional donors and Southern partners;

(b) Take proactive steps to ensure that support is in line with the priorities and programmes set by the Government of Haiti, as contained in the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, the triennial investment plans and other follow-up documents, and maintain liaison with the relevant sectoral ministries to that end;

(c) Support the development of Haiti's productive capacities in key sectors such as tourism, agriculture and manufacturing, in accordance with decisions made by the Government;

(d) Continue to simplify disbursement procedures in order to accelerate project implementation;

(e) Consider providing direct budgetary support, using government channels as much as possible and systematically including capacity-building components in their activities;

(f) Increase development support in the provinces, including in rural communities, and involve local authorities and civil society in these activities;

(g) Provide continued support to the national police and its development plan for the period 2012-2016 while increasing assistance to the judiciary and other key institutions for the rule of law;

(h) Respond to the calls made by United Nations entities to fund humanitarian activities addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, including those still living in camps, as well as calls to provide food assistance and to improve the sanitation and health sectors;

(i) Support capacity-building activities carried out by the United Nations country team and MINUSTAH and provide them with the means to sustain such activities in the medium to long term.

52. **In particular, the United Nations system is called upon to:**

(a) **Review the integrated strategic framework with a view to promoting a "Delivering as one" approach in United Nations development system activities and undertaking consolidated planning, fundraising and programme implementation;**

(b) **Plan for a smooth transition process in relation to the consolidation of MINUSTAH in such a way as to secure continued assistance by the United Nations system in peacebuilding-related areas such as governance, institution-building and human rights issues, and consider how the United Nations can best support peacebuilding efforts in Haiti, including through the possible involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission, if requested by the Government of Haiti;**

(c) **Ensure that country offices of United Nations system entities receive appropriate backup and financial support from Headquarters to operate adequately in the transition phase;**

(d) **Increase development activities outside Port-au-Prince and take specific steps to strengthen capacities of local authorities and civil society in the provinces;**

(e) **Assert its role as a promoter of aid effectiveness through the provision of secretariat support to the Group of Twelve Plus and active participation in the external aid coordination framework.**

53. **The Group also wishes to draw the attention of the Haitian authorities to the need to:**

(a) **Take all the necessary steps to ensure that the senatorial, municipal and local elections are held without further delay and to ensure that legitimate, credible and well-functioning local authorities are in place;**

(b) **Improve dialogue among the executive and legislative branches of government on the national budget with a view to its rapid adoption;**

(c) **Broaden the tax base and increase capacities to enforce fiscal legislation, among other efforts to strengthen administrative structures both in ministries and at the decentralized level;**

(d) **Fully operationalize the external aid coordination framework and its mechanisms, in accordance with the road map adopted earlier this year, including through the setting-up of planning and study units in key line ministries and the functioning of thematic and sectoral tables led by Haitian ministries;**

(e) **Accelerate reforms related to the management of public finances and procurement processes with a view to increasing transparency in development support;**

(f) **Pursue the operationalization of the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes, and enforce the new law against corruption;**

(g) **Deepen dialogue with civil society and accelerate the drafting of the draft legislation on the status and operations of non-governmental organizations;**

(h) **Continue to invest in social programmes aimed at reducing inequalities and provide humanitarian assistance to those who need it most;**

(i) **Continue to invest in the strengthening of the national police, the judiciary, the penitentiary system and institutions geared towards embedding the rule of law in Haiti.**

Annex

Programme of the visits of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to Washington, D.C., and Haiti

Visit to Washington, D.C., 29 April 2014

10:00	Meeting with representatives of the international financial institutions
	Mr. Agustin Aguerre, Manager, Haiti Country Department, Inter-American Development Bank
	Mr. Joseph Ntamatungiro, Senior Economist for Haiti, International Monetary Fund
	Ms. Michelle Keane, Lead Country Officer for Haiti, The World Bank
13:00	Working lunch
	Guest speaker: Mr. Ian Schwab, Associate Director of Advocacy, American Jewish World Service
15:00	Meeting with the Organization of American States (OAS)
	Discussion with members of the Core Group of the OAS on Haiti and OAS directors

Visit to Haiti, 12-15 May 2014

Monday, 12 May

12:00	Arrival at Toussaint Louverture International Airport
12:45	Meeting with Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator a.i.
14:00	Meeting with Ms. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)
16:00	Meeting with Mr. Duly Brutus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Haiti
18:30	Reception hosted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General

Tuesday, 13 May

09:00	Visit to Camp Dahomey, a camp for internally displaced persons managed by the International Organization for Migration
11:00	Visit to the nursing school and Isaie Jeanty maternity clinic and a maternal health centre
15:30	Meeting with the United Nations country team
19:00	Dinner with the Group of Twelve Plus (donor community)

Wednesday, 14 May

08:00	Breakfast with civil society representatives
10:00	Visit to a housing reconstruction project managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services at Morne Hercule
12:00	Meeting with the President of Haiti, Mr. Michel Martelly
15:30	Meeting with Mr. Simon Dieuseul Desrat, President of the Senate, and other parliamentarians
19:00	Cocktail reception hosted by the Embassy of Canada

Thursday, 15 May

09:00	Meeting with Mr. Laurent Lamothe, Prime Minister of Haiti and Minister of Planning and External Cooperation
11:00	Debriefing with the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator a.i.
13:00	Departure for New York